(c) A rough estimate indicates a reserve of 14 billion tonnes of oil shale alongwith associated coal in the North-east region. However, detailed geological and geochemical investigations would be necessary to establish the reserves to a degree of certainty.

Joint collaboration in the field of technology development

159. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to encourage the participation of foreign companies in the technology development programmes in the field of petro-chemicals and refining;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the foreign companies which have come forward for such joint operations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) Discussions with a few foreign companies are in preliminary stage, for participation in the development of basic engineering, technology programme etc. in the petro-chemicals field.

There is a proposal for obtaining technical assistance from multinational oil companies on a centralised basis for all the oil refineries in the country, on payment of a retainer fee, and specified man-hour rates as may be necessary. This will enable refineries to keep abreast of the procedures and techniques being followed else wherein the world in the field of energy conservation, safety, optimisation for improving the yield pattern, and also in developing new projects for optimum utilisation of facilities.

Survey for granting petroleum dealerships and LPG agencies in Andhra Pradesh

160. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made in the recent past for the grant of petroleum dealership and L.P.G. Agencies in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Changes in flight schedules of IA and Vayudoot

161. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of changes in flight schedules of Indian Airlines and Vayudoot during the last three years, yearwise and the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): The number of times, flight schedules of Indian Airlines and Vayudoot have been changed during the last three years, is as under:—

Year	No. of times schedules were changed	
	Indian Airlines	Vayudoot
1988-89 . .	34	4
1989-90 . . .	61	19
1990-91 . . .	54	5

Such changes are necessiated by seasonal variation, shortage of aircraft, change of type of aircraft, unforeseen grounding of aircraft, route variations, fuel conservation and other operational reasons.

Foreign visits by MPs

162. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Members of Parliament had been to various foreign countries with different teams or delegations during the last five years; and

(b) how much amount was spent on this account during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) The information will be colected and laid on the Table of the House.

hortage of plastic bags for preservation of Blood

163. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any shortage is being experienced in the country in the availability of plastic bags for preservation of blood; and

(b) if so, what corrective steps are being taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY): (a) No report has been received by the Ministry of Healh and Family Welfare about shortage in the availability of plastic bags for preservation of Blood.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposal for a Liquefied Natural Gas plant at Mangalore

164. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal of Karnataka Government for a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant at Mangalore has been pending for long with the Central Government;

(b) whether Government propose to implement this through public/private finance at the earliest; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Yes. Sir. A Memorandum on the subject was received by the Government of India in April, 1989. GAIL had commissioned a feasibility study by Sofre Gaz of France in 1989.

(b) and (c) The Feasibility Study Report has since been received from the Consultants and is under examination.

Creation of a post of Assistant Director (Regional Language) in the Central Hindi Directorate

165. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one post of Assistant Director (Regional Language) was created in the Department of Correspondence Courses of Central Hindi Directorate after obtaining the approval of Education Ministry and Finance Ministry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this post was created after the recommendation of Internal Works Study Unit;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which this post is not being filled up particularly when the number of Regional Language medium students is more than the English medium students; and

(d) what action has been taken against thosee responsible for neglecting Tamil, Malayalam and Bengali medium students?